



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

October 1, 2004

## **GUILTY VERDICT AGAINST MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKER**

**RE: UNITED STATES v. JOSE A. DE LA CRUZ**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today the conviction of JOSE A. DE LA CRUZ, a/k/a "Ismael Corchado," a/k/a "Orlando," age 38, of Rochester, New York, for one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 150 kilograms or more of cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, one count of possession of at least 500 grams of cocaine with intent to distribute, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), one count of carrying or possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c), and one count of tampering with a witness, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(b)(1). A federal jury in Rochester returned its verdict Friday after a 2½ week trial and two hours of deliberation.

DE LA CRUZ faces a mandatory minimum penalty on all counts of fifteen (15) years imprisonment and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$4,250,000.00, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Frank H. Sherman, who tried the case, stated that the defendant conspired with other persons, both known and unknown, during the time period from 1995 through September 2002, to distribute over 150 kilograms of cocaine in the Rochester, New York, area, as well as in Atlanta, Georgia, and Houston, Texas. The witness tampering charge arose from defendant threatening harm to a government witness' family members in an unsuccessful effort to influence the witness' trial testimony.

The conviction resulted from an OCDETF investigation on the part of the Drug Enforcement Administration, assisted by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration & Customs Enforcement, the Rochester Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Marshals Service, the New York State Police, the Louisiana State Police, and the police departments of Gwinnett County, Georgia, and Pasadena, Texas.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 12, 2005, in front of Hon. David G. Larimer, United States District Judge.

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